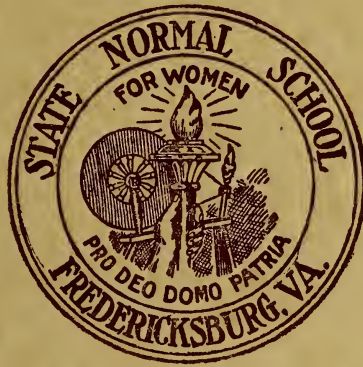


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The Rappahannock River Country

By A. B. CHANDLER, Jr., M. A.,
Dean of Fredericksburg Normal School

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RUSSELL HALL, FRONTING GROVE

The Rappahannock River Country

By A. B. CHANDLER, Jr., M. A.
Dean Fredericksburg Normal School

No attempt is made to make a complete or logically arranged survey of the Rappahannock River country, because the limits of this paper and the writer's time do not permit it. Attention is called, however, to a few of the present day characteristics of this section of the State, its industries, and its people, and stress is laid upon certain features of its more ancient life which should prove of great interest to all Virginians. Considerable space is given also to the recital of strange experiences and customs that belong to an age long since past in Virginia, and in pointed contrast to the customs and ideals of to-day; and an insight is given into the life and services of certain great Virginians who lived within this area and whose life-work, it seems to me, has hitherto received an emphasis not at all commensurate with their services to the State and the Nation.

The Rappahannock River country, embracing all of the counties from Fredericksburg to the mouth of this river, is beyond doubt one of the most beautiful, fertile and picturesque sections of Virginia. And yet this region is less familiar than some others in the State on account of its isolation. No railroad taps this stretch at any point except at its extreme western border, and the people therefore are entirely dependent upon the Rappahannock River boat line for transportation. In point of historic setting the Rappahannock country is co-equal with that of the James River, for it is a fact not generally known, that Capt. John Smith, with his band of explorers, sailed up the Rappahannock River, stopping at various points, and it is certain that he spent some time at the fall line of this river where Fredericksburg and Falmouth are now located. Capt. Smith, himself, in his History of Virginia, gives an account of this voyage, and records in interesting detail many of his weird experiences, which more than once nearly cost his life.

The counties whose shores are washed by this river are Spotsylvania, Stafford, Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, Richmond, Middlesex and Lancaster.

The Rappahannock is navigable from Fredericksburg to the Chesapeake Bay, and is one of the most picturesque rivers in Virginia. The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, of which this river is no mean one, is the most valuable fishing ground of like area bordering the United States, and one of the principal industries of the people of this section is "following the water." The river abounds in shad, herring, trout, perch, rock and other choice food fish, and the flavor of its oysters is unexcelled. Toward the mouth of the river and in the bay, immediately opposite, menhaden fishing is engaged in on a large scale. It may be interesting to give a brief account of the menhaden fisheries.

These fish are somewhat larger than the herring and swim in great schools of from a few thousand to several hundred thousand. They are caught in nets and transferred by machinery into the hold of fishing steamers and carried to the fish factory situated on a sheltered tributary of the Bay. One of the largest of these factories is at Irvington, on the Rappahannock. At the factories they are steamed, pressed and ground. The principal product is a high grade commercial fertilizer. The only by-product is fish oil, which has large commercial value. The author had the pleasure, several years ago, of spending two days on Chesapeake Bay in one of these fishing steamers whose captain was and is the best fisherman on the Bay. He saw the men make a catch of some hundred and fifty thousand fish at one haul. Twenty or more such factories are situated on Chesapeake waters and probably as many as fifty steamers are engaged in catching these fish for fully six months in the year. This industry is one of the most interesting and important in the whole State.

It will surprise many to learn that on the Belle Grove and Walsingham estates near Port Conway, in King George County, is the largest alfalfa farm east of the Mississippi River. The owner of these estates does not call himself a farmer, but a manufacturer of alfalfa. This farm is one of the truly wonderful agricultural show places in eastern Virginia. Visitors from many parts of the United States journey annually to this farm to study the alfalfa problem.

The soil of this section is on the whole light and loamy, and well adapted to raising vegetables and cereals. Large quantities of wheat and corn are produced in the western section of this country, both on the low land and the rolling country beyond the valley.

These crops and the usual garden vegetables are raised in abundant quantities. Of the vegetables, tomatoes take the first rank, and throughout this section are a large number of canning factories which put up vegetables, especially tomatoes of a high grade of excellence.

The up-lands still contain a large quantity of lumber, although, as in other parts of Virginia, enterprising lumbermen have been rapidly depleting the forests with little care for the future.

Most of the produce is shipped on the boats which ply between Fredericksburg and Baltimore. Lack of railroad transportation practically shuts this section off from Virginia markets, putting it in much closer commercial touch with the metropolis of Maryland than with the trade centers of Virginia. Efforts are now being made to connect the rich Rappahannock valley country with the capital of Virginia, and a railroad line has already been built part of the way from Richmond to Urbanna. Another line is being projected from Newport News to Washington by way of the Rappahannock valley.

Much progress has been made in this section in recent years in road building. Spotsylvania and Stafford especially have been bonded for large amounts for road construction, and long stretches of permanent improved highways have been built in these counties. All of the other counties in this section, under State aid, have also built considerable stretches of good roads.

The existence of these roads as object lessons, is proving an inspiration to the people throughout the valley section, and it is safe to predict that within the next decade improved highways may be found connecting the main points in the entire region.

The educational facilities in the Rappahannock country have improved beyond measure during the past decade. These improvements began with the educational renaissance which swept over Virginia in 1902 on the heels of our new State Constitution and of the celebrated May campaign, so that now, while the facilities are far from adequate, the county and district levies have been increased in nearly all sections, schools have been consolidated, better supervisors have been secured, professionally trained teachers have been installed, a course of study better adapted to the needs of the children has been adopted, and the opportunities for educating the children for useful citizenship and a happy life have been immeasurably increased. Corn Clubs for boys and Canning Clubs for girls are being established at many points. One of the most inspirational gatherings the author has ever attended, is the School Fair for Middlesex County, held annually at Urbanna.

Whereas, ten years ago there was not a single accredited high school in this section, to-day there are five or six first grade high schools and at least thirty other schools which offer from one to three years of high school work. In addition to these increased educational facilities, special mention should be made of the fact that on Marye's Heights, overlooking the city of Fredericksburg, was established five years ago, one of the new State Normal Schools whose mission it is to professionally train the teachers of this section for service in the schools of Virginia.

One of the most striking things connected with the religious life of the people of the Northern Neck is the continuance of the old fashioned camp meetings. These are held successively at Wharton Grove, Marvin Grove, and Kirkland Grove each, for two weeks every summer. Several thousand people gather during this period, giving up, for the time being, their usual occupations to live in tents and small cottages on the grounds, devoting themselves to attendance on religious services and reflections upon religious affairs. It is fair to say, however, that a large number of the younger folks on these occasions are as much bent on social intercourse as upon spiritual advancement, and the camp meetings have in the past proven very successful matrimonial bureaus.

It should not be imagined from what has been said previously that the people of this section are cut off from communication or social intercourse. Everywhere there is a perfect network of satisfactory rural telephone lines, and county fairs, public speaking, lecture courses and parties of all kinds form a very large part of the people's life. In fact, the inhabitants of the Rappahannock country possess in a large degree the social spirit, and spend much of their time in social intercourse and in the amenities of neighborly friendships. No part of Virginia, perhaps, is quite so free from troublesome intermixture of foreign elements in its population.

There is one thing in connection with the courts of justice and court houses in this section that deserves special mention, and that is, the successful ef-

forts of the late Judge T. R. B. Wright, of Tappahannock, to preserve the history of these counties by procuring and hanging on the walls of the court houses portraits of leading men, and tablets commemorative of great events. The court houses of Essex, Westmoreland, Richmond, Lancaster and Middlesex counties are veritable picture galleries. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Judge Wright and those generous and patriotic spirits who assisted him in thus gathering and preserving in permanent form the precious historical legacies of these grand old counties.

We now pass to a consideration of incidents connected with the lives of some of the great historic characters who have been an ornament, not alone to the counties of their birth, but the whole State and Nation as well.

Edmund Pendleton, President of the Virginia Court of Appeals and of the Virginia Convention of 1775, was born in Caroline County. Howe says of him: "He had the silver voice of which Cicero makes such frequent and honorable mention; an articulation uncommonly distinct; a perennial stream of transparent, cool and sweet elocution; and the power of presenting his arguments with great simplicity and striking effect. He was always graceful, argumentative, persuasive; never vehement, rapid or abrupt. He could instruct and delight."

General William Woodford, a Revolutionary officer of high merit, also claimed Caroline as his native heath.

Colonel John Taylor, an intimate associate of Jefferson and a man of rare intellect and of sincere patriotism, had his home in Caroline. He was a United States Senator, a great patron of scientific agriculture and author of rational repute, his best known works being "Construction Construed" and "Inquiry into the Principles of the Government of the United States."

Sam Schuyler and Lewis Minor Coleman, the great educators, were natives of Caroline.

Concord Academy and Rappahannock Academy, both old field schools of wide repute, were situated in Caroline.

It is often asserted by misinformed persons and locally believed by the credulous that both Port Royal and Tappahannock, very old towns and beautifully situated on the right bank of the Rappahannock, came within one vote of being selected as the site of the National Capital. The author has investigated this report and it may be stated confidently that there is no historic foundation for the story.

Fairs were compelled by law in 1738 to be held in Fredericksburg twice a year, not, as now, for the entertainment and amusement of the people and the exhibition of machinery, agricultural products and live-stock, but for the "sale of cattle, provisions, goods, wares, and all kinds of merchandise whatsoever."

In 1732 Colonel Byrd thus half facetiously and humorously writes of Fredericksburg: "I was obliged to rise early here, that I might not starve my landlord, whose constitution requires him to swallow a beefsteak before the sun blesses the world with its genial rays. However, he was so complaisant as to bear the gnawing of his stomach till 8 o'clock, for my sake. Colonel Waller, after a score of loud hems to clear his throat, broke his

fast along with us. When this necessary affair was dispatched, Colonel Willis, who is the top man of the place, walked me about his town of Fredericksburg."

Middlesex was the home of John Mitchell, the celebrated botanist and physician, essayist and philosopher. It was one of the earliest counties in which the Baptists, in early days regarded as dissenters and apostates, gained a foothold and rapidly grew to have a preponderating religious influence, just as now the handsomest modern church perhaps in any strictly rural community in Eastern Virginia, is Harmony Grove, in this county. The following may give some idea of the persecution and uncharitableness toward these early Baptists: "They were beaten and imprisoned; and the people taxed their ingenuity to devise new modes of punishment and annoyance. Outrageous mobs disturbed their congregations and preachers. A snake and a hornet's nest were thrown into their meetings, and even in one case firearms were brought to disperse them. Men in power strained every penal law in the Virginia Code to obtain ways and means to put down these 'disturbers of the peace and offensive heretics,' as they were called."

Not all the early ministers sent over from England were over-pious or sufficiently self-restrained. Rev. Mr. Gray, according to the statement of Bishop Meade, was a most unworthy one. The records of the court in Middlesex show him to have been much engaged in law suits, either suing or being sued for property. At length he caused the death of one of his slaves by severe whipping, and was tried for his life. He finally agreed, in 1698, to relinquish, for a certain amount of tobacco, all claim on the parish of Middlesex.

And Mr. Heffernon, also of Middlesex, a century later, a native of England, was a dishonor to the church for eighteen years, though by the will of Mr. William Churchill in 1711, 100 sterling endowment was given the Middlesex parish to support preaching against the four reigning vices, viz: atheism and irreligion; swearing and cursing; fornication and adultery, and drunkenness." Mr. Heffernon was the beneficiary of this bequest, preaching sermons Sunday after Sunday against these flagrant vices; yet he himself was a most open and notorious violator of his own doctrines, for hunting, gambling and drinking were his constant occupations. In fact, he was seen by the father-in-law of Bishop Meade in a tavern-porch in Urbanna, reeling to and fro with a bowl of toddy in his hand, inviting the passers-by to drink with him. He brought the parish into disrepute and prostrated the church.

The courts and juries also very commonly presented in pre-Colonial times persons of high standing in the community for failure to properly observe the Sabbath. The following extracts from the presentments of a Grand Jury of Middlesex in 1704 may be taken as typical illustrations:

"We present Thos. Sims for traveling on the road on the Sabbath day with a loaded beast."

"We present Wm. Montague and Garrett Minor for bringing oysters ashore on the Sabbath."

"We present James Lewis for swearing and cursing on the Sabbath day."

"Ordered that John Hutney be fined according to law for being drunk on the Sabbath day."

And it was not uncommon to fine and imprison ministers of other than the established (Episcopal) faith for preaching their "heresies." For instance, Rev. John Waller, a Baptist preacher of Spotsylvania County, was put in jail in Spotsylvania, Caroline and other counties for preaching the gospel. More common still was it to present and fine persons of every walk in life for failure to attend church on Sundays.

In the pre-Revolutionary or even ante-bellum stage coach days the social, political and religious customs and practices were vastly different from those in vogue in our time, and a few illustrations are here cited to show the superiority of the newer ideals and the progress in civilization. For instance, a regular schedule of prices was fixed by law for every attention to guests at the inns or taverns.

At Bowling Green, formerly New Hope, the county seat of Caroline, for many years before the war a regular cock-pit was maintained in the Court House Square.

Many of the most prominent citizens of all these Rappahannock counties were presented before the grand jury for gaming.

It was a common practice, under the old regime, to incarcerate prisoners for debt. It was not uncommon to have "prison bounds" for such prisoners. The story is told of a man named Hoomes who, at Bowling Green, trained his setter dog to take a note to the ordinary and return to his master confined within the bounds with a pint of whiskey tied around his neck. In King George County, a negro was hung some years before the war for killing his master. His body was exhumed and generally exhibited about fifteen years ago. He was hung in an iron cage and buried with the cage.

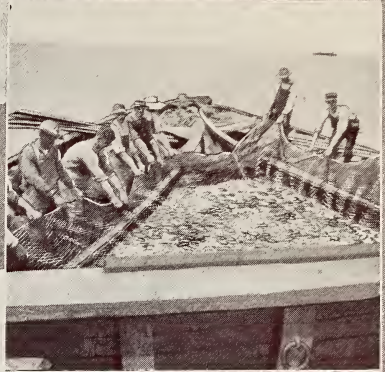
Before the Revolution the common medium of exchange was tobacco. In 1739 the county levy of Caroline County shows that Samuel Coleman was allowed 1,000 pounds of tobacco for "finding the Court with small beer, fire, etc.," and an order of the Court of even date provides that John Brown in future have 1,000 pounds of tobacco annually for the same service.

Around 1852 there was an exodus of some twenty-five or thirty families from the neighborhood of Sparta, in Caroline, to Texas. Mr. Andrew S. Broadus, formerly member of the Legislature from Caroline and an ardent prohibitionist, was the leader of this band of emigrants. He became one of the most prominent lawyers and jurists in the Lone Star State, and others of his band rose to positions of more or less prominence and influence.

Bishop Meade, writing in 1854, thus refers to Christ Church in Middlesex County: "And what has become of the old mother church, standing in view of the wide Rappahannock, midway between Rosegill and Brandon? More perhaps than fifty years ago it was deserted. Its roof decayed and fell in. Everything within it returned to its native dust. But nature abhors a vacuum. A sycamore tree sprung up within its walls. All know the rapidity of that tree's growth. It filled the void. Its boughs soon rose above and overspread the walls. In the year 1840, when it pleased God to put it into the hearts of some in whom the spirit of old Virginia Episcopalians still



View of WEEMS' WHARF



CATCHING MENHADEN



Cutting Alfalfa on
BELLE GROVE ESTATE



THE MILDEN PACKING CO.
Sharps, Virginia.



View in
TAPPAHANNOCK

remained, to seek the revival of the church's dry bones in Middlesex, that huge, overspreading tree must first be removed piecemeal from the house, and the rich mould of fifty years' accumulation, to the depth of two feet, must be dug up, before the chancel floor and stone aisle could be reached. The walls—faithful workmanship of other days—were uninjured and may still remain while generations of frail modern structures pass away. The house is now one of our best country churches. The graves of our ancestors are all around it."

Captain John Smith and his little band explored the Rappahannock River to the falls—the first white men to sail on its waters or to tread the adjacent soil. In writing of the country back of the Chesapeake Bay, of which the Rappahannock country is the larger part, he says, "Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation."

It is more than probable also that the beautiful and fascinating Pocahontas, who saved the life of Captain Smith and who captivated the bold and fearless Rolfe, spent some time around the falls of the river, feasting her youthful eyes upon the beautiful scenery and engaging in the sports and pastimes of her distinguished father's subjects.

Twelve German families settled at Germanna, in Spotsylvania county, about eighteen miles from Fredericksburg, laying here the foundation for the German Reformed Church in the United States, and also of the iron and steel industry in this country, the latter industry having been begun and fostered under the personal direction of Governor Spotswood. It is not generally known that the first iron in the United States was manufactured at Germanna in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe is a secret, benevolent order which owes its origin and derives its inspiration from the romances connected with the famous expedition of Governor Spotswood and his train through the upper Rappahannock country and across the Blue Ridge in the late summer of 1716. From John Fontaine's diary we select a few incidents connected with this march, as they shed a flood of light upon the habits and customs of his day in this part of Virginia, and are withal not without tinges of real humor. Says he: "The descent to the river being steep, and the night dark, we were obliged to dismount and lead our horses down to the river side, which was very troublesome. The bank being very steep, the greatest part of our company went into the water to mount their horses, where they were up to the crotch in the water. After we had forded the river and come to the other side, where the bank was steep also, in going up, the horse of one of our company slipped and fell back into the river on the top of his rider, but he received no other damage than being heartily wet, which made sport for the rest. A hornet stung one of the gentlemen in the face which swelled prodigiously."

Again, "We had good pasturage for our horses and venison in abundance for ourselves, which we roasted before the fire upon wooden forks."

"We met with a large bear, which one of our company shot, and I got the skin."

"We encamped upon the Rappahannock River * * *, had good liquor and at ten went to sleep."

"I got some grasshoppers and fished; and another and I, we caught a dish of fish, some perch and a fish they called chub. The others went a hunting and killed deer and turkeys. The Governor had graving irons, but could not grave anything, the stones were so hard. I graved my name on a tree by the river side; and the Governor buried a bottle with a paper enclosed, on which he writ that he took possession of this place in the name and for King George the First of England. We had a good dinner, and after we got the men together, and loaded all their arms, we drank the king's health in Champagne, and fired a volley—the Princess' health in Burgundy, and fired a volley, and all the rest of the Royal Family in Claret, and a volley. We had several sorts of liquors, viz: Virginia red wine and white wine, Irish usquebaugh, brandy, shrub, two sorts of rum, champagne, canary, cherry, punch, water, cider, etc." Virginia was far from dry in those times.

"As we were going up a small hill Mr. Beverley and his horse fell down, and they both rolled to the bottom; but there were no bones broken on either side."

"We killed another snake four feet nine inches long."

"Mr. Robinson and I, we endeavored to melt some ore in the smith's forge [at Germanna]."

Twenty-one days before the passage of the celebrated Mecklenburg resolutions in North Carolina, the patriots of Fredericksburg and surrounding country met in the Court House, passed resolutions of protest against the tyranny of the Mother Country, and pledged themselves to be in readiness to defend by arms the liberty and rights of this or any sister colony against unjust and wicked invasions—a practical declaration of independence a year in advance of the famous Jeffersonian document.

Common methods of punishment, in lieu of fines, jails and penitentiaries, in the olden times were the whipping post, stocks and the ducking stool.

The whipping post was used chiefly for slaves, and if their offense was an aggravated one the penalty was "thirty-nine lashes on his bare back, well laid on," and in addition, "burning in the left hand in the presence of the court."

The stocks, erected in a public place, were for white persons for petty offences. Sufferers so confined had to endure the taunts and jeers of passers-by.

The ducking stool was used for punishing common scolds, refractory women and dishonest tradesmen, especially brewers and bakers.

Fredericksburg before Revolutionary times was a port of entry, and its annual exports were no less than \$4,000,000 worth of merchandise and raw materials, including considerable quantities of gold and iron from the Germanna mines in Spotsylvania County. It is interesting to note that Governor Spottswood himself established and promoted the iron industry here, and that this was the first iron furnace established on American soil.

From an historical standpoint Fredericksburg is the richest community for its size, not only in Virginia, but on this continent. It has had an intimate

connection with every war in which our country has been engaged, and it has been the permanent or temporary home or the burial place of more statesmen and patriots than any other spot of like population. Every square foot of its soil is historic and made sacred by the blood of martyrs. Scores of old residences now standing were once owned or occupied by men of national renown who were foremost in the making of the nation or in defense of the State's liberties.

Monroe lived in Fredericksburg and held a pocket deed to a small house on Princess Ann Street to satisfy the law requiring that members of the Legislature be owners of real estate. His law office was in a little row of low brick buildings on Charles Street and is still standing.

"The Sentry Box" on lower Main Street and overlooking the Rappahannock, was the home of General George Weedon, of Revolutionary fame, and was afterwards owned and occupied by Colonel Hugh Mercer. The claim is made that in this house has been entertained every President from Washington to Buchanan.

The house on lower Main Street, now occupied by General Wheeler, was once the home of Dr. Charles Mortimer, physician to Mary, the mother of Washington. He was also the first Mayor of Fredericksburg. Here Dr. Mortimer entertained lavishly, having as his guests no less personages than Marquis Lafayette, Count d'Estaing, Count Rochambeau, George Washington, and many other American statesmen and men of letters.

"Federal Hill" on Hanover Street, was in the latter part of the eighteenth century the home of Thomas Reade Rootes, the great grandfather of the distinguished Thomas R. R. Cobb, the gifted Georgia lawyer and general who fell during the battle of Fredericksburg in the Sunken Road at the foot of Marye's Heights, at which spot a monument has been erected to his memory.

The old building now standing at the corner of Prince Edward and Fauquier streets, was the birthplace and home of John Forsythe, who later moved to Georgia and became a brilliant statesman. This house was also the home of Congressman John Dawson, who represented this district from 1797-1814. During one of his campaigns for re-election, it was said that on going to the Court House to speak and finding it crowded, he cried out, "Make way, gentlemen, for the poor man's friend," whereupon the crowd soon parted, enthusiastically cheered the commoner and the electorate returned him to Congress.

Kenmore, a handsome brick mansion on Washington Avenue, is celebrated as the home of Fielding Lewis, a very wealthy citizen and ardent patriot whose second wife was Elizabeth, better known as Bettie, the sister of George Washington. It was his son, Captain Robert Lewis, who delivered the address of welcome to General Lafayette on the occasion of his visit to the town in 1824.

The Washington House still stands in a restored condition, and of course is one of the show places of the city. It was here that Washington's mother lived and died and that her illustrious son lived part of the time and entertained many celebrities of his time, including Lafayette. Much of the orig-

inal furniture is still preserved in the house, which is now under the control of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. The two principal monuments in the city are the one to General Hugh Mercer, to whom reference has been made previously, and one to Mary, the mother of Washington. The former is in the center of Washington Avenue and is a bronze statue erected by the Government. The latter is at the end of the Avenue, at the spot where she was buried and was unveiled by President Cleveland in May, 1894, in the presence of his Cabinet, members of the Supreme Court of the United States, Senators and Congressmen, the Governor of Virginia, and of the largest concourse of citizens ever to this day assembled in the historic city. It is a monolithic shaft of granite and is a reproduction in miniature of the great Washington Monument in the Nation's Capital.

It is not generally known that in the time of Jefferson there existed in Fredericksburg a hotel called the Indian Queen, and that it was in this building that the celebrated statute for religious liberty was discussed, written and adopted, the committee consisting of Thomas Jefferson, George Wythe, Archibald Cary, George Mason and Ludwell Lee—one of the four accomplishments, according to the inscription on his tomb, for which the father of democracy wished to be known to posterity.

Another celebrated inn is the Rising Sun Tavern, which, though necessarily repaired from time to time, has never been changed. This tavern was once the stopping place for many southern statesmen and other dignitaries, in their journeys to and from the national capital. It is now controlled and preserved by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

The Liberty Hotel, built about the same time and of the same style of architecture as the Mary Washington House, was also a rendezvous for many statesmen, and it was here that General Sam Houston spent much of his time after his return from frontier life.

William Paul, a merchant of Fredericksburg, was a brother of John Paul, afterwards known in naval history as John Paul Jones, and Fredericksburg was the latter's only home in America.

In 1783, just after laying down his commission of Commander-in-Chief of the American Armies, General Washington visited his mother in Fredericksburg, and the following is his response to the address of welcome presented to him by the City Council:

"Gentlemen: With the greatest pleasure I receive in the character of a private citizen, the honor of your address. To a benevolent Providence and the fortitude of a brave and virtuous army, supported by the general exertion of our common country, I stand indebted for the plaudits you now bestow. The reflection, however, of having met the congratulating smiles and approbation of my fellow citizens for the part I have acted in the cause of liberty and independence cannot fail of adding pleasure to the other sweets of domestic life; and my sensibility of them is heightened by their coming from the respectable inhabitants of the place of my growing infancy, and the honorable mention which is made of my revered mother, by whose maternal hand (early deprived of a father) I was led to manhood. For the expres-

sions of personal affection and attachment, and for your kind wishes for my future welfare, I offer grateful thanks and my sincere prayers for the happiness and prosperity of the corporate town of Fredericksburg."

This brief address is reproduced to give an illustration of the clear and beautiful style of Washington's diction. Most people think of him as a warrior or as our first President and are apt to ignore or underestimate his clear power of expression and his mastery of the English language and literature.

The house in which Washington was made a Mason also stands on Main Street, near the present beautiful and modern post office building.

Fredericksburg was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the war between the States (December 13, 1862), and within a radius of ten miles from a given point in Spotsylvania County it is said that more blood was shed than upon any like area in the world within the same time, for this area includes, besides the battle above referred to, the bloody fields of Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness and Chancellorsville. On the last named field the intrepid Jackson fell, to die in a little house near Guinea's Station, in Caroline County. This house is now owned and suitably preserved by the R. F. & P. R. R. The United States Government has been considering for some years the establishment of a Battlefields' Park within this area. On Marye's Heights is Brompton, the old Marye house and the headquarters of General Lee during the Fredericksburg campaign, now the home of Captain M. B. Rowe, and on Stafford Heights opposite, is beautiful Chatham, the headquarters of General Burnside during the Battle of Fredericksburg. Across the river from Fredericksburg is the farm on which Washington spent many of his boyhood days, and from which, if indeed from any point, he doubtless threw the silver dollar across the Rappahannock. A better authenticated story of Washington, actually borne out by the records of Spotsylvania County, is the trial and conviction of a negro "wench" for stealing his clothes while he was bathing in the Rappahannock River. The record does not indicate how he extricated himself from the embarrassing predicament in which this uncivil act left him.

The Virginia Bill of Rights and the Constitution of Virginia were both written by a native of the Rappahannock country—George Mason, of Gunston Hall, Stafford County. This consummate statesman, a co-equal with Jefferson and Madison in his grasp of governmental affairs and in his ability to record in concrete form his masterful ideals of government as exemplified in these two state papers, gave to Virginia its basic laws in a time when he had no precedent to guide him touching many of the principles which these papers covered. His language was so incisive, clear and embracing that other State Constitutions largely followed the phraseology he used. Every patriotic Virginian would do well to study the public service of this most remarkable man, especially his great Bill of Rights, the beacon light to our liberties in the dark days of disorder and confusion.

President James Madison, though living at Montpelier, in Orange County, a little beyond the Rappahannock country proper, was born at Port Conway, in King George County.

Richard Henry Lee, sometimes styled the Cicero of America, of Westmoreland County, wrote the first authoritative thanksgiving proclamation.

It was Henry Lee of Westmoreland County, better known as "Light Horse Harry" Lee who, while Governor of Virginia, stamped out the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania, and who later delivered in Congress the funeral oration on Washington in which he used the celebrated phrase, "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

George Rodgers Clarke, who explored and conquered for Virginia the great Northwest Territory, though generally accounted an Albemarle man, was equally a Fredericksburger. Likewise William Clarke, the brother of George Rodgers Clarke, was a native of this town. It was he who, with Meriwether Lewis of Albemarle, explored the great stretch of country from the Mississippi to the Pacific.

Leedstown, in Westmoreland County, on the Rappahannock, may properly be styled the "Cradle of American Liberty," for the famous "Westmoreland Resolution," prepared by Richard Henry Lee, and signed at Leedstown in February, 1766, ten years before the Declaration of Independence, by one hundred and fifteen patriotic fathers, antedated the better known Mecklenburg Resolutions by nearly ten years and was the real precursor of American freedom. This was a strong resolution against the injustices to which the Colonists were being subjected, the protest against the Stamp Act being especially vehement and concluding as follows: "And every abandoned wretch who shall be so lost to virtue and public good as wickedly to contribute to the introduction or fixture of the Stamp Act in this colony by using stamp paper, or by any other means, we will, with the utmost expedition, convince all such profligates that immediate danger and disgrace shall attend their prostitute purposes."

It was also this same Richard Henry Lee who, at the request of the Virginia Convention and of his colleagues, prepared and offered in June, 1776, the resolutions for the independence of the colonies, resulting in the Declaration of Independence. And Mr. Lee, instead of Mr. Jefferson, would have been named chairman of the committee to draft the Declaration and would have been known to posterity as the "Author of the Declaration of Independence" instead of the sage of Monticello, but for the unhappy misfortune of his wife's illness which on the very day of the appointment called him from the sessions of the Congress in Philadelphia to her bedside in Virginia. So, we should rather think of Lee than of Jefferson as the father of the immortal words, "Resolved, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

The facts of history bear out the assertion that Richard Henry Lee was more potentially connected with the separation of the Colonies from the mother country than any other single patriot, and that he and Washington were regarded in England as the arch enemies of the Crown, for one who was acquainted with the plans and intentions of the English ministry declared that, in the event of the reduction of the Colonies, the delivery of

General Washington and Richard Henry Lee would have been demanded that they might be executed as rebels. The fact is that no county in the State can claim as many statesmen and patriots of the first rank as Westmoreland, often called the "Athens of America." It was the home of most of the Lees, including the peerless Robert Edward Lee, whose birthplace, Stratford, near Montross, is the mecca of many admirers of the great southern leader. Wakefield, the birthplace of Washington, and Monrovia, where President Monroe first saw the light, are also among the sacred shrines of this famous county.

The father-in-law of Washington, Colonel Ball, was born in Lancaster County, Epping Forest, the old homestead, still standing in a good state of preservation and occupied by his descendants.

James Waddel, though underestimated and unappreciated in his time, was one of the most eloquent men this country has ever produced. He spent all of his mature life in the Presbyterian ministry, and a part of the time had churches in Lancaster and Northumberland counties. Patrick Henry was accustomed to say that Waddel and Davies were the greatest orators he ever heard, and Governor Barbour declared that Waddel surpassed all orators he ever knew. William Wirt, in the "British Spy," in one of the most remarkable descriptive passages to be found in the whole range of literature, pictures Dr. Waddel as the most unusually gifted and persuasive orator of all time. His full description may be found in "Literary Masterpieces," published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Matthew Fontaine Maury was born near Fredericksburg, and no apology is made for the brief "Appreciation of His Life and Services" here given, this being an address delivered by the author at Bowling Green on the occasion of the unveiling of his portrait in the Lee-Maury High School. This appreciation is declared by Maury's daughter to be an accurate portrayal of his character and services.

The progress of the world is due principally to the concentrative and self-abnegating work of modern scientists. Scientific discoveries and inventions in every branch of man's work in the world are the very foundation stones of modern life. Fine and effective machinery to run the mills and factories and to do the work of the mines and farms are the priceless legacies to all mankind of great pioneers in the field of scientific research and experimentation. The applications of steam and gasoline and electricity to motive power or to the conduction of sound are among the wonders of this age. Wireless telegraphy and air-craft, both now in successful operation, put man but little below Deity in his powers of accomplishment. In the field of medicine the discovery of anaesthetics for use in surgical operations and of disease germs and their antitoxins are the very marvels of human achievement. Bridling the winds and ocean currents and charting the very bottoms of the deep have added swiftness and security to international communication and commerce, thus building up an everlasting brotherhood among the nations of the world, and converting every shore into a veritable whispering gallery for the enlargement and refinement of human society.

Great spirits are those who have thus stood apart from the commonplaces of life and in the quietude of their retreats have thus evolved the commercial salvation of the world. Such souls as these, though few in number, are the bright stars in the firmament of human progress, shining with greater luster as the passage of time gives opportunity to measure their priceless achievements with true perspective.

It is worthy of note that the large majority of the great inventors and discoverers have been silent workers, unappreciated, unrewarded, and in many cases unhonored and unsung. Retarded appreciation or recognition does not, however, detract one whit from the value of their work nor rob any of the ultimate reward which must be bestowed.

Truth, tho' crushed to earth, must rise again;
 The eternal years of God are hers:
 Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
 And dies amongst its worshippers.

I have said this much to prepare you for an appreciation of the life and character and service of Matthew Fontaine Maury in whose honor, in part, we have met to-day and whose portrait I have the pleasure, on behalf of the B. G. Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Caroline County, to present to this institution. I wish I had time to give you all the interesting, inspiring details of this man's unusual career. I cannot do this. I shall have time to touch his life only at a few salient points. I hope to review enough of it, however, to convince you that he belonged to that very small circle of consummate masters in the field of research to whom every advanced nation is largely indebted for its present precedence in commercial life.

It is hard to use extravagant phrases in speaking of him. Nothing but superlatives give a true index to the value of his work. Impartial history warrants me in declaring to you that Matthew Fontaine Maury was not only the greatest scientist the South has yet produced, but one of the greatest of the world in all ages, and in his particular field of discovery he is matched by none. Not only so, but full examination of his record discloses the fact that his work was not local, but universal; not transient, but permanent; not benefiting a few, but all the earth. Nor is this all. In him I point you to the man, who, in view of the character and value of his discoveries and the obstacles overcome, has received less recognition and reward from his fellow countrymen than any man who has ever lived among us. The ingratitude of this nation is in nothing more pointedly displayed than in its refusal thus far to pay, even in part, its incalculable debt to this constructive scientist by the erection of a monument, the gift of a medal, or in any other appropriate way. The unspeakable shamelessness of this ingratitude is accentuated by the studied and successful policy of petty politicians to suppress even mention of his name in the authoritative papers at the nation's capital. His name is omitted at the Naval Observatory which he founded; in the history of the Brussel's Conference, at which every civilized nation of the world did him distinctive and unprecedented honor while he yet lived, the American historian in his blind-



WHITE STONE
HIGH SCHOOL



The OLD SCHOOL in the
Northern Neck



The NEW SCHOOL in the
Northern Neck



CHRIST CHURCH
Showing remains of the old marble
slabs over KING CARTER and his wives,
JUDITH ARMISTEAD and BETTY LANDON.



MARVIN GROVE CAMP GROUNDS

ing prejudice fails to record his name; and in the beautiful Congressional Library at Washington the name of Maury does not appear either among the scientists or the naval officers of America. The unpardonable affront to truth and justice thus exemplified makes my blood boil, especially when, searching for a motive, I find none except the fact that he was a Southerner, and in the War between the States he pinned his faith to the land of his fathers, following, like Lee, the dictates of his conscience rather than the allurements of reward and honor. His life throughout was so steady, his heart was so pure that the only "crime"—God save the mark—he ever committed during his career was his allegiance with the incomparable Lee in the just cause that was lost.

The principal achievements of the subject of this sketch, enough in number and importance to enroll his name high among the immortals in the Hall of Fame, can barely be mentioned. Though twice injured, once by a fall from a tree and later by a fall from a coach in New York City, from which he was crippled for life, and though the pinches of poverty and lack of insight on the part of his parents seemed to forbid the possibility of a literary career, his indomitable spirit overcame even those obstacles, and in spite of his fight against poverty throughout his boyhood and young manhood, perhaps by reason of it, he finally gained appointment as midshipman in the Navy, chiefly through the influence of the patriot, Sam Houston. He soon earned promotion to a lieutenancy. Later he became head of the Depot of Charts and Instruments, out of which he created the National Nautical Observatory. He established the Hydrographic Office at Washington and instituted a system of "log books" by which all American vessels could aid him in collecting observations on winds and currents in every sea on which they sailed.

He originated and was the moving spirit of the Brussel's Conference in 1853, where representatives of the maritime nations discussed the laws of navigation and of meteorology and adopted plans suggested by Maury for their promotion. He is in truth the father of the science of meteorology and has been so recognized in all the world, save his native land. His maps and charts of the ocean won for him the title of "Pathfinder of the Ocean" and "Geographer of the Seas." His published treatise on navigation was long used as the text at the Naval Academy, of which, in a sense, he was the founder. He wrote a physical geography and a series of general geographies, containing the most advanced scientific findings of his day, of which he was the principal discoverer. He discovered the cause of the gulf stream, drew maps explaining the currents and winds of the seas, charted the channels of travel across their trackless wastes so as to save time in navigation and give greater security to cargo and crew. He studied the causes of changes in weather and laid the basis of our modern weather bureau. He inaugurated means of accurate ocean soundings, advancing the theory of a seabottom plateau across the North Atlantic. Acting upon this discovery, Cyrus W. Field in 1857 laid the first trans-Atlantic cable, paying his debt to Maury in these words: "Maury furnished the brains, England the money, and I did the work." He urged the building of a ship canal across the Isthmus of

Panama, which accomplishment to-day stands as the greatest engineering feat of all time. He assisted in fitting out the Virginia as an ironclad, the first the world ever saw and the very foundation of modern navies, and invented a formidable torpedo to blow up hostile ships.

He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Cambridge University, England. He was presented with twenty-two gold and silver medals, given by Prussia, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, the Pope, Sardinia and Bremen, medals which have been seen by a lady of this town; three copper medals from England, Belgium and Batavia; four Decorations of Honor from Denmark, Portugal, Russia and Mexico; two others from Belgium and France; a pearl and diamond brooch from the Czar of Russia, and other gifts of equal significance from various potentates, but the United States has been and is conspicuous in its silence. Soon after the war he became a distinguished professor of science in the V. M. I., where he died in 1873.

Thus it may be seen that he was a restless and versatile, yet an accurate worker in a field of research hitherto unexplored, and that he mastered the mysteries of the air and commanded the secrets of the sea alike, marshaling the forces of both to make their priceless contributions to human needs and human progress. The results of his researches have added untold millions to the wealth of the world and saved countless human lives. He has bound every nation together by the iron cords on the bottom of every sea. He has mastered every current of air that blows. So to-day his spirit hovers about the oceans' depths and the mountains' heights around the world, and after all, this fact is his everlasting monument.

How fitting it is that this son of Virginia, and of this section of Virginia, born within ten miles of Fredericksburg, dead at Lexington, buried in Richmond, one time a visitor in this very town, with close descendants now living in your midst, should to-night receive at our hands this recognition of honor for his very worth's sake. How heartening it should be to our youth to look upon his open and kindly face, to study his early boyhood life of struggle and of disappointment, to learn from him the value of earnestness, of modesty, of perseverance, of industry, of self-abnegation and of Christian character. In these qualities, which were pre-eminently his, my young friends, though you may never startle the world, as he did, with useful discoveries or inventions, you may imitate this great American, thus laying the surest foundation for independence and success, whatever may be your mission in the world.

School Improvements

Attention is called to the present course of study of the school, and especially to the reorganization that has been effected in the professional department. The curriculum now embraces four years of high-school work and five professional courses. The latter may be summarized as follows:

Course 1—To prepare for teaching the primary grades.

Course 2—To prepare for teaching the intermediate and grammar grades.

Course 3—To prepare for teaching the first and second high-school grades.

Course 4—A course in Household Arts.

Course 5—A course in Industrial Arts.

Completion of any one of these five courses entitles the student to a full diploma.

Under the head of Industrial Arts are grouped all of the studies formerly included in the separate departments of Rural Arts and Manual Arts.

In the five professional courses outlined above, each of which is based upon the completion of four years of high-school work, sufficient variety is afforded to meet the needs (1) of students who wish to be prepared to teach in the primary grades, the grammar grades, or the high school; and (2) of students who desire instruction that can be turned to practical account in the home.

Further details of the curriculum will be given in a subsequent bulletin.

An announcement of the Training School Course of Study is in preparation and will be printed as a separate pamphlet. Interesting extracts from this announcement will be included in the next regular bulletin of the school.

Several decided improvements have been made to the school property during the past few months. The handsome new dormitory, Virginia Hall, which was described in a recent bulletin, adds greatly to the attractiveness of the campus. It is connected with the other dormitory and with Russell Hall, the administration building, by wide granolithic walks.

On the hill to the west of the school buildings is an excellent athletic field, which includes a running track, baseball and basketball grounds, and several tennis courts.

In the beautiful grove which covers a part of the school grounds an ample stage has been built, and seats have been placed to accommodate a large audience. This arrangement makes an ideal open-air theater, and furnishes an especially appropriate setting for the woodland scenes of plays.

Mr. A. B. Chandler, Jr., Dean of the Faculty, and Mr. W. N. Hamlet, Head of the Department of Science and Mathematics, are now occupying handsome new residences adjoining the campus.

Increased facilities for travel between the school and the city of Fredericksburg are furnished by the recently completed granolithic walk and pressed gravel driveway, and by the establishment of regular jitney service, which began at the opening of the present session.

The school is fortunate in having as an addition to the faculty Mr. Edwin Francis Shewmake, Jr., who comes as head of the department of English. For several sessions Mr. Shewmake has been principal and head of the English department of the Staunton High School. He holds the A. B. degree of the College of William and Mary, and the A. M. degree of Columbia University. Mr. Shewmake has also had experience in summer school work in Virginia, having taught in the Fredericksburg Summer School several years ago, and last year being in the English department of the University of Virginia Summer School.

School Items

PRESENT ENROLLMENT.

About eighty per cent of the number of last year's students have again enrolled in the school. The present enrollment is 241, in contrast to 222 as the total enrollment of last year. Of last year's school attendance, about fifty girls were graduated.

ROLL OF THE SCHOOL BY COUNTIES.

The present roll of the school, according to counties, is given below. It will be seen that forty-two counties are represented in the school and seven States outside of Virginia.

Accomac, 5; Albemarle, 4; Amelia, 1; Appomattox, 1; Augusta, 3; Brunswick, 2; Buckingham, 1; Caroline, 12; Charles City, 2; Chesterfield, 1; Cumberland, 2; Culpeper, 1; Elizabeth City, 3; Essex, 10; Fairfax, 4; Fauquier, 1; Gloucester, 1; Green, 1; Hanover, 13; Henrico, 10; Halifax, 1; Isle of Wight, 2; King and Queen, 10; King George, 5; Lancaster, 14; Loudoun, 1; Louisa, 8; Madison, 1; Mathews, 5; Mecklenburg, 2; Middlesex, 14; Nansemond, 5; New Kent, 1; Norfolk, 3; Northampton, 6; Nottoway, 1; Orange, 9; Pittsylvania, 2; Powhatan, 4; Prince George, 1; Prince William, 1; Rockingham, 2; Richmond, 9; Roanoke, 2; Shenandoah, 1; Spotsylvania, 30; Stafford, 9; York, 1; Warwick, 5; Westmoreland, 1; West Virginia, 3; Texas, 1; North Carolina, 2; Alabama, 1; Kentucky, 1; New Jersey, 1; Washington, D. C., 5.

ROLL OF GRADUATES OF 1915, WITH PRESENT TEACHING POSITIONS.

Of the forty-seven young women who were graduates from the school last session, the Appointment Committee has been able to place each one in a teaching position. One of the last year's graduates is taking another course at the Normal School and one has entered college. The names and positions are given below:

Broadus, Effie.....	York County, Va.
Bolen, Virginia.....	Chilesburg, Va.
Barber, Muriel.....	Postgraduate work, Fredericksburg Normal
Bradford, Joyce.....	Wachaprague, Va.
Birmingham, Alva.....	Madison County
Burrus, Nannie Page.....	Culpeper County
Brooking, Sophie.....	Casanova, Va.
Carter, Annie.....	Orange, Va.
Carter, Ruth.....	Richlands, Va.
Clarkson, Ruth.....	Greensboro, N. C.
Chenery, Elizabeth.....	Richmond City
Coleman, Mary Temple.....	Cobbs Creek, Va.

Craig, Lillian.....	Henrico County
Dannehl, Theresa.....	Fredericksburg, Va.
Detwiler, Beulah.....	Floris, Va.
Gardner, Helen.....	Sussex County
Gouldman, Sarah.....	Richlands, Va.
Gibbs, Edna.....	Cheriton, Va.
Hiter, Fannie.....	Richlands, Va.
Harrell, Frances.....	Jerrell, Va.
Harris, Anne.....	Denbigh, Va.
Henley, Louise.....	Richmond City
Hughes, Martha.....	Amelia, Va.
Lynch, Theresa.....	Tarrytown-on-Hudson, N. Y.
La Crosse, Janet.....	Sussex County
Lewis, Louise.....	Glen Allen, Va.
Linthicum, Bealmear.....	Richmond City
Maddonell, Elizabeth.....	Culpeper County
Ninde, Elizabeth.....	Richmond City
Northrop, Helen.....	Richmond City
Pearce, Rachel.....	Prince George County
Parker, Nannie Waller.....	Dillon, S. C.
Raiford, Alma.....	Waverly, Va.
Rawlings, Lucile.....	Sparta, Va.
Rice, Charlotte.....	Wicomico, Va.
Rice, Latane.....	Center Cross, Va.
Riker, Marjorie.....	Petersburg, Va.
Russell, Elizabeth.....	Rio Vista, Va.
Spindle, Sara Burke.....	Newtown, Va.
Sacre, Margaret.....	Fredericksburg, Va.
Sayre, Margaret.....	Bristol, Va.
Seay, Maude.....	Cape Charles, Va.
Tennis, Norine.....	Henrico County
Torbert, Mannie.....	Richlands, Va.
Tanner, Grace.....	Cape Charles, Va.
Warren, Alice.....	Cheriton, Va.
Wood, Elsie.....	Warsaw, Va.



PRINCESS ANNE ST., Looking South.
 Showing Old Masonic Lodge where George Washington was made
 a Mason and the Post Office.

On the RAPPANNOCK



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL



"CHATHAM" Known as "Lacy House" in war times, built 1730
 Opposite Fredericksburg



WAR SCENE AT FREDERICKSBURG
 This view is taken where Hanover and George Sis come together.
 St. George's Church in the distance.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

PREPARES TEACHERS FOR TEACHING

1. Primary Grades
2. Grammar Grades
3. High School Grades

Special Courses in
Household Arts
Industrial Arts
Music

Second term begins January 31st, 1916

For further information write

E. H. RUSSELL,
President.

